

## Mediterranean Fire Management Study Tour

Over the past several years the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, and Canada have conducted detailed fire management study tours. These study tours have included U.S. participants from the Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. A real demonstration of the benefits that resulted from the knowledge and understanding gained on these study tours has been the development of arrangements to provide international firefighting assistance to each other during severe fire seasons.

Building on the success of the ongoing fire management study tours, Larry Hamilton was requested by Mr. Gary Morgan, Chairperson to Forest Fire Management Group of Australia/New Zealand, to join a fire management study tour of several countries



the western U.S., and countries bordering the Mediterranean, three of the world's most severe fire regimes. This fire management study tour observed fire management systems in the five countries, compared the fire issues those countries faced with similar issues in the participants' own countries, and looked at ways to build strong networks between three of the globe's highest fire risk regions



Prior to meeting with UN officials in Rome, Tom and Larry relax at the old Athens Olympic stadium.

bordering the Mediterranean. The U.S. Forest Service participated as well.

The Mediterranean Fire Management Study Tour took place November 5-16, 2002 and included Greece, Italy, France, Spain, and Portugal. The combination of geography, vegetation, climate conditions and similar urban interface issues, make southeastern Australia, many parts of